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THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

The integration of the human rights of women and the girl child into the activities of the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General prepared in accordance with Subcommission resolution 1994/43

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Introduction

1. At its forty-sixth session, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in its resolution 1994/43 of 26 August 1994, requested the Secretary-General to report to the Subcommission at its forty-seventh session on the steps taken since the World Conference on Human Rights relating to the integration of the human rights of women and the girl child into the United Nations system. The present report describes the actions taken by special rapporteurs, experts, working groups, treaty bodies and other mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights to integrate women's human rights into the United Nations system.

2. The report also examines the status of implementation of the recommendations of the W rld Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna in 1993. The key points raised at the Conference will be reviewed in the light of the major actions taken by the Centre for Human Rights and the main activities of human rights tre ty monitoring bodies, and of gender considerations reflected in the agenda of the Commission. This is followed by a presentation of violations of women's rights as documented in the reports of thematic and country special rapporteurs and working groups. The report also contains brief information on the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995.

I. BACKGROUND TO THE QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

3. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states clearly that everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, without distinction of any kind. Women are therefore entitled to the full enjoyment of the rights enshrined therein.

4. Promoting and protecting human rights have become major global concerns. The world campaign for human rights carried out by the Centre for Human Rights has proved to be significant. The Centre's immediate responses to various violations of human rights are making a difference, as are its technical assistance through training, seminars and the production in different languages of fact sheets on human right issues. Consequently, the concept and importance of human rights - from civil and political rights to economic, social and cultural rights - have become widely accepted.

5. The international development of human rights has continuously stimulated concern and awareness for promoting and protecting women's rights. The last 50 years have witnessed considerable progress in this regard. The theme of women's rights emerged from initial marginalization in early world conferences on human rights to become an independent theme by the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979, has served as the comprehensive international legal instrument to protect the human rights of women. The World Conference on Human Rights has clearly promoted the concept that the human rights of women are an inalienable part of universal human rights. As such, they must form an integral part of the human rights activities of the United Nations, including the promotion of all human right instruments relating to women. This is a great achievement in the process of promoting and protecting women's rights.

6. Translating existing international legal instruments into active practice to protect the human rights of women will continue to be an arduous task. The implementation of existing international legal instruments has been undermined due to factors such as the practice of patriarchal cultures, customs and religious extremism. Violations of the human rights of women range from unequal opportunities in politics, society and the economy to systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy in armed conflicts - a manifest gulf between international law on human rights and daily life.

7. Each element of the international legal system is crucial in the process of making human rights a reality for all. Social, economic and cultural forces often determine people's behaviour more than legal regulations, especially for those whose illiteracy denies them access to legal information - law-illiterates.

8. The international legal system can be powerful in promoting gender justice and the human rights of women only when people have knowledge of its existence, its contents and its strict implementation.

II. ACTION BY THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS

9. The World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14-25 June 1993, devoted noteworthy attention to the issue of gender inequality in the full enjoyment of human rights in civil, political, economic, social and cultural life. The Conference adopted the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and clearly acknowledged that women's rights are human rights and that they should be integrated into the mainstream of human rights activities throughout the United Nations system. The Conference emphasized the importance of working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life and the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women, both hidden and overt.

10. The Conference made it clear that legal measures are needed at both the national and international levels to protect women from gender-based violence. Governments and the United Nations should make the full and equal enjoyment of human rights by women a priority of their policies. All States were encouraged to supply information on the situation of women *de jure* and de facto, and to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the year 2000. A joint effort was requested from Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations alike to promote and protect the human rights of women, and to facilitate women's access to decision-making posts and processes.

11. At the Conference, the need for cooperation and coordination among the human rights bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations was stressed, especially between the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women. Certain measures were considered necessary to ensure that the violation of women's human rights is regularly addressed. To realize women's full participation, as both agents and beneficiaries, in the development process, human rights treaty bodies should make necessary information available to women, enabling their more active use of existing human rights implementation procedures. Treaty monitoring bodies were urged to include the status of women's human rights in their deliberations and

findings, and training was recommended for United Nations human rights and humanitarian relief personnel to increase awareness of gender inequality issues. To this end, women's access to and promotion in the United Nations system on an equal basis should be guaranteed. The Conference stressed the importance of the elimination of violence against women, as well as sexual harassment, exploitation, trafficking and gender bias. The Conference welcomed the decision by the Commission on Human Rights to consider the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women. The Conference recognized the importance of the right of women to the highest standard of physical and mental health care. The Conference encouraged Governments and organizations to facilitate access of women to decision-making posts in the United Nations Secretariat. The Centre for Human Rights would undertake the following short-term, medium-term and long-term activities in close cooperation with the Division on the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM, UNDP and other United Nations bodies.

III. FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION

12. Since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Centre for Human Rights has increased its effectiveness in addressing the promotion and protection of the human rights of women throughout its programmes. The Centre has adopted a policy of incorporating issues relating to the human rights of women into all its activities, publications and programmes. A focal point was established within the Centre and follow-up activities initiated on the basis of existing resources, to implement the sections relating to the human rights of women in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

13. To ensure that United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, including treaty bodies, are fully appraised of the particular ways in which women's human rights are violated, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights addressed letters to all special rapporteurs, representatives of the Secretary-General and chairpersons of treaty bodies. He emphasized the need to implement the relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. He underlined the importance of examining systematically the violations of human rights suffered by women and of trying to collect information on *de jure* and de facto discrimination. More importantly, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights stressed the need to examine systematically the structural causes of women's inequality in society.

14. The High Commissioner for Human Rights attaches special importance to the promotion of the equal status and human rights of women as an important aspect of his mandate. He has given priority to activities relating to the integration of women's human rights into the mainstream of the programme of work of the Centre for Human Rights. When visiting countries, the High Commissioner systematically discusses the status and human rights of women with government officials and non-governmental organizations, drawing particular attention to the impact on the rights of women of economic adjustment or transitional policies.

A. Focal Point for the Human Rights of Women

15. The provisional establishment of the Focal Point for the Human Rights of Women is one of the major follow-up activities of the World Conference on Human Rights. The Centre for Human Rights in February 1994 designated one staff member to be the focal point on the human rights of women in the office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. The mandate of the provisional Focal Point includes coordinating actions within the Centre on gender-based human rights issues; liaising within the United Nations system on the issue of women's human rights; and cooperating and coordinating with the Division for the Advancement of Women, human rights bodies and United Nations agencies concerning women in particular, with a view to the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women and its follow-up.

16. Within her mandate, the Focal Point has devoted her efforts to ensuring that human rights bodies, mechanisms and staff members in the Centre integrate a gender dimension into their work. The Focal Point has been cooperating and coordinating activities on human rights of women within the Division for the Advancement of Women, agencies within the United Nations system and NGOs. The goal is to elaborate a system-wide action plan to implement gender-based recommendations made at the World Conference on Human Rights and the recommendations for action contained in the platform of the Beijing Conference. In particular, the Focal Point has presented the Centre's concerns on human rights of women in relevant meetings organized by the Division for the Advancement of Women and participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in the inter-agency meetings on women and in the major NGO forums on women.

17. The Focal Point for the Human Rights of Women has made great efforts to ensure that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women obtains adequate assistance in carrying out her mandate. She facilitates coordination and cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and other human rights mechanisms, as well as with United Nations agencies and NGOs dealing with the advancement of women.

18. The Focal Point for the Human Rights of Women constantly encourages the participation of NGOs as observers at human rights meetings. NGOs are also urged to supply information on their research and findings to the treaty bodies and to human rights mechanisms, especially the Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

19. The Focal Point for the Human Rights of Women advises the Assistant Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights on measures to be taken within human rights activities for the integration of gender concerns.

B. Cooperation and action work plan

20. In its resolution 38/2, the Commission on the Status of Women requested the Secretary-General to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on women's human rights for the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis and to inform both the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on the Status of Women at their annual sessions, beginning in 1995.

21. Subsequently, the Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women prepared a report which was submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session in 1995. The report, inter alia, describes measures taken by both the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights. The report contains a proposed joint work plan for 1995. The plan consists of three joint activities. The first is to provide training to the personnel concerned on gender-awareness and reporting violation of human rights, followed by a seminar on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in late 1995. The second will be the participation of the Division in the selection of experts for advisory services missions organized by the Centre. The third is to develop material on women's rights for activities related to the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education. A long-term work plan will be elaborated as part of the implementation of both the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the platform for action of the Fourth World Conference on Women.

22. The Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Fund for Women are co-sponsoring an expert group meeting on the drafting of gender-specific gender-sensitive guidelines on how to identify, document and report violations of human rights on a gender basis. The guidelines will be formulated to build the capacity to access and analyse relevant information related to women's concerns.

23. In order to strengthen coordination and cooperation in the field of human rights, the staff members of the Centre have strengthened contacts with relevant agencies within the United Nations system, in particular the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization. The staff, at the same time, have developed close relations with relevant non-governmental organizations.

C. Supervision of assessment missions

24. The Centre has instructed those conducting assessment missions for technical assistance to take particular account of the status of women in the target country and to aim to improve the situation of women's human rights in their recommendations. The staff members and external experts recruited for assessment missions were also advised to consult NGOs and officials who are particularly concerned.

25. With specific gender-based instructions, progress in the promotion and protection of women's human rights has been clearly reflected in some assessment missions. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the assessment team proposed that attention be directed to women's human rights through integrating women's needs and concerns into all components of a technical assistance programme, such as legislative reform, police training and legal education. In Malawi, the assessment team found that women had little access to education and decision-making. Severe exploitation of women's labour

existed and female-headed households were particularly affected by poverty. They suggested that the particular needs of women in Malawi required a four-tiered approach, comprised of legal reform, public education, social programming and the fostering of women's organizations.

D. Training and seminars

26. All training courses and seminars on the administration of justice now contain some practical component on the human rights of women. The beneficiaries of the training and seminars are mainly judges, lawyers, prosecutors, police officers and prison personnel. The objective of training and seminars is to sensitize participants to their own potential for violative behaviour, as well as the important protection role which they may play.

27. In order to ensure participation from the relevant professional groups in its training courses, the Centre has recently included specific requirements to this effect in legal agreements between the United Nations and the host country. The host Government is required to ensure that the authorities responsible for selecting participants make every effort to guarantee women's participation.

28. A training course for lawyers and judges, for example, examines issues relating to women as victims of violent crimes (particularly sexual assaults and domestic violence); women as offenders in the criminal justice system; women in the legal profession; and the problem of gender-bias in the courtroom. A similar approach is adopted in the training of police officials, with specific emphasis on issues relating to women in all aspects of law enforcement. Starting from the non-discrimination principle, the trainers then consider women in three situations: as victims, as offenders and as police officials. In the three cases, the relevant human rights embodied in different international instruments are examined, and solutions envisaged.

29. Training courses for government officials on reporting obligations now include sessions on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Where possible, these sessions are conducted by experts recommended by the Division for the Advancement of Women.

30. With regard to the recruitment of consultants and trainers, the Centre has strived to utilize the services of qualified women as much as possible. In 1994, women consultants and trainers provided services in a large number of projects in Burundi, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mozambique, Palestine, the Philippines, Romania and Rwanda. A roster of experts in the field of women and human rights is currently being developed.

E. Project support

31. Expertise has been developed within the Centre for the organization and delivery of briefings on the human rights of women to students, delegations, non-governmental organizations and other groups visiting the United Nations Office at Geneva.

32. The human rights of women are specifically incorporated in relevant publications, such as the Professional Training Series which includes the manual Human Rights and Social Work, the handbook Human Rights and Pre-Trial Detention and the handbook Human Rights and Elections. Work on training manuals for law enforcement officials and on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights is ongoing.

33. The Centre for Human Rights contributed to all relevant documentation in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Centre has published a fact sheet on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the work of the committee under the Convention, and a fact sheet on United Nations activities for the elimination of harmful traditional practices affecting the health of women and children will be published in 1995.

IV. ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS TREATY MONITORING BODIES

A. Meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies

34. In compliance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the fifth meeting of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies, held in September 1994, adopted a number of recommendations relevant to women's human rights. Discussion on this issue is much shorter than on other issues, but the chairpersons underlined that all human rights contained in the international instruments apply fully to women, that the equal enjoyment of these rights should be closely monitored by each treaty body within the competence of its mandate, and that a common strategy should be developed by treaty bodies in this regard.

35. The chairpersons have pointed out that reports submitted by States parties often do not contain adequate information on women's actual enjoyment of their human rights, and that such information has not been forthcoming from other sources. They have therefore recommended that each treaty body should consider amending, where appropriate, their guidelines for the preparation of States parties' reports to include such information and disaggregated statistical data.

36. The chairpersons of the treaty bodies decided to devote their 1995 meeting to ways in which the human rights of women can be more effectively monitored. In preparation for the meeting, the chairpersons invited each treaty body to consider how to monitor and enhance women's human rights effectively under its mandate.

37. After exchanging views on the resources required for the effective functioning of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the chairpersons recommended that the Committee be given one more meeting to eliminate their backlog of reports. The Committee should be based at the United Nations Office at Geneva in order to integrate itself effectively into the overall human rights treaty bodies.

B. Human Rights Committee

38. The Human Rights Committee is responsible for monitoring States parties' compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee also receives complaints from individual victims of human rights violations in the same regard.

39. When the Committee lists issues relating to States parties' reports, it always refers to questions on women's participation in civil, political, economic, social and cultural life in the country concerned, and female citizens' access to schools and universities. The Committee frequently urges States to take further measures to improve respect for women's rights under the Covenant.

40. In its last report to the General Assembly, the Committee raised the issue of women's human rights in Japan, Cameroon, Togo and Jordan. It expressed similar concerns when it examined the recent report of Nepal. The Committee deplored the fact that these countries had not yet embarked on all necessary reforms to eliminate factors still impeding gender equality. The Committee condemned the persistence of the practice of trafficking in women as a clear violation of several provisions of the Covenant. It also emphasized the need for the efforts of Government to eliminate discriminatory attitudes and prejudices against women and to ensure equal rights as set out in article 3 of the Covenant. Having examined the report of Ireland in 1993, the Committee recommended that the Government undertake further measures to achieve gender equality, through law enforcement, the legal profession and the judiciary.

41. Having reiterated the basic character of the principle of non-discrimination, the Committee pointed out that States parties should, if necessary, take affirmative action to eliminate conditions which foster factors which perpetuate discrimination prohibited by the Coverant. The Committee has also developed some jurisprudence relating to the promotion and protection of women's human rights in individual cases dealt with under the Optional Protocol to the Covenant. Women living in countries which have ratified the Optional Protocol are thereby able to bring complaints about violations of their rights of equal entitlement protected by the Covenant.

42. On 14 October 1994, the pre-sessional working group of the Committee reviewed various recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights on the integration of women's equal status and human rights into the work of the human rights treaty bodies and recommended:

(a) That a general comment be adopted on the status and human rights of women under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

(b) That lists of issues include concrete questions on the equal status and human rights of women;

(c) That the guidelines of the Committee be amended to request States parties to provide gender-specific information in their reports.

The Committee discussed the above suggestions extensively at its fifty-second session (14 October-4 November 1994) and the following session (20 March-7 April 1995). The general comment on article 3 of the Covenant, dealing with measures to ensure the equal rights of men and women, may be revised in 1995.

C. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

43. This Committee is in charge of monitoring States parties' compliance with the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It pays particular attention to the measures undertaken by States parties to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in articles 6 to 15 of the Covenant.

44. In its examination of States parties' reports, the Committee takes into account information provided by States' reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as the deliberations and findings of CEDAW with respect to them. Having realized the inadequacy of information on women, the Committee revised its reporting guidelines in 1990, inter alia to bring them into line with article 3 of the Covenant and with its own practice. The Committee always requests gender-specific data from States parties. At its eleventh session, the Committee requested, in its written lists of issues, information about gender equality of remuneration, gender-based problems in the labour market, measures taken to protect women migrant workers, women's right to inherit from their parents and gender-disaggregated statistical data on the number of persons with HIV or AIDS.

45. At its eighth session in May 1993, to promote gender awareness, the Committee decided to amend its rules of procedure to replace the word "Chairman", wherever it occurs, with the gender-neutral word "Chairperson".

46. At the opening meeting of the eleventh session of the Committee (21 November-9 December 1994), it decided to prepare a statement for the Fourth World Conference on Women which would underline the importance of the relation between the implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the promotion and protection of women's equal status and women's human rights. On the day of general discussion of that session, the central point was "human rights education". The Committee discussed some obstacles to women's education in general and constraints in educating women about their human rights in particular, including early marriage, dowry systems, poverty and son preference. The participants at the meeting also underlined the necessity of focusing on girl children to improve their access to quality education.

D. Committee on the Rights of the Child

47. The Committee on the Rights of the Child has the mandate to monitor States parties' compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This Convention is the most widely ratified international instrument in the field of human rights (168 States parties in January 1995).

48. A number of its activities in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child have a direct bearing on issues of gender equality because the human rights of the girl child are also under the protection of the Convention. The Committee has designated one of its members to follow activities carried out by CEDAW and to inform the Committee on the Rights of the Child regularly on main developments in CEDAW.

49. In accordance with the Committee's reporting guidelines, States parties are required, when submitting reports on the implementation of the Convention, to provide gender-specific information, statistical data and indicators on various issues covered by the Convention. When considering reports submitted by States parties, the Committee stresses the need for concerted efforts on problems such as discrimination against the girl child, early marriage, maternal health care, early pregnancies, family planning education and services, prejudicial health practices, denial of education opportunities to girls, the exploitation of child labour and sexual abuse and exploitation. Such concerns, as well as suggestions for preventive, remedial and rehabilitative measures in these areas, are reflected in the concluding observations adopted by the Committee.

50. In its last reports, the Committee showed concern about the issues of gender discrimination in countries such as Bolivia, Viet Nam, the Russian Federation, El Salvador, Indonesia, Romania, the Sudan, Costa Rica, Namibia, Egypt, Pakistan, Burkina Faso, Honduras, Madagascar and Paraguay. It recommended developing strategies and educational programmes, with adequate dissemination of information, to challenge gender prejudices affecting children. A major effort was recommended to widen educational campaigns with a focus on gender discrimination and the role of parents in the prevention of gender violence and abuse in the family.

51. During its day of general discussion on the girl child, the Committee reviewed its work and its crucial role in monitoring the Convention, recalling some achievements and difficulties in the promotion and protection of the human rights of girls. Having fully recognized that gender inequality is caused mainly by discrimination, the persistence of traditions and prejudices, neglect, exploitation or violence, the Committee emphasized the importance of the complementary and mutually reinforcing nature of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the international and national levels; the need for identification of certain areas where law reform should be undertaken, both in civil and penal areas, such as the minimum age for marriage and the establishment of the age of criminal responsibility upon the attainment of puberty. Accordingly, the Committee adopted a comprehensive strategy aiming at creating awareness and understanding of the principles and provisions of the Convention, at launching educational programmes to eradicate any form of discrimination against the girl child and at encouraging the participation of all segments of society, including non-governmental organizations and customary, religious and community leaders.

52. The Committee has also paid due attention to the situation of girl children when considering thematic issues in the framework of its general discussion days. The specific problems of the girl child were, for instance, the focus of specific attention during the general debate of the Committee on

the exploitation of the child (October 1993), and the debate on the role of the family in the promotion and the protection of the rights of the child (October 1994). In view of the Committee's decision to be actively involved in, and contribute to, the preparatory process of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Committee held at its eighth session a general discussion on the topic of the girl child, in order to make the conclusions of this thematic discussion available in time to be considered and reflected in the platform which will be adopted by the World Conference. In the course of the general discussion, the crucial role of the Committee in monitoring the situation of the girl child through the consideration of gender-disaggregated data was underlined, as well as the impact its recommendations could bear upon the situation of the girl child as far as legislative and practical measures are concerned. The role of the Committee in mobilizing international cooperation to implement the rights of the girl child was also stressed.

53. The Committee, in collaboration with UNICEF, organized informal meetings to raise awareness of its work, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and of the actual situation of children worldwide. Meetings for this purpose were held in South America, Asia and Africa.

E. Women in treaty bodies

54. There was noticeable progress in promoting female experts in treaty bodies. One out of 10 members of the Committee against Torture is female. On the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as of December 1994, there were 6 women out of 18 members. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women consists of female experts only. There is only 1 female member, however, of the total of 18 on the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. The Committee on the Rights of the Child is composed of 10 experts, 6 being women. The Human Rights Committee has 18 members, 4 of whom are women.

V. GENDER CONSIDERATIONS BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

A. Encouraging further efforts and cooperation in the integration of women's human rights

55. The Commission on Human Rights has considered the promotion and the protection of women's human rights since 1993. A Special Rapporteur on violence against women was appointed in 1994. During its fifty-first session in 1995, the Commission adopted four resolutions which directly concern women's human rights. They are resolutions concerning violence against women migrant workers (1995/20), traffic in women and girls (1995/25), the elimination of violence against women (1995/85) and the question of integrating the human rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations (1995/86). In these four main resolutions concerning the human rights of women, the Commission stressed the need to intensify efforts and strengthen cooperation, at both the national and international levels, on integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream human rights activities within the framework of the United Nations. To promote and protect women's human rights, the Commission called on Governments to include gender-disaggregated data, including information on the *de jure* and de facto situation of women, which should be used by the United Nations human rights

mechanisms and requested, in its resolution 1995/86, Governments and the United Nations to include information on the human rights of women in their human rights education activities.

56. In resolution 1995/86 the Commission requested special rapporteurs, representatives, experts, working groups, and other mechanisms of the Commission and the Subcommission to include information on violations of the human rights of women in their reports, regularly and systematically, and to address violations of the human rights of women in their future meetings on enhancing cooperation and exchange of information. The Commission has also called upon the international and national communities to intensify efforts to promote and protect the human rights of women.

57. In its resolution 1995/85, the Commission reaffirmed that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations. It condemned all acts of gender-based violence against women, including all violations of the human rights of women in armed conflicts. The Commission requested all Governments, human rights treaty bodies, special rapporteurs responsible for various human rights questions, United Nations bodies and organs, specialized agencies and international and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur on violence against women in the performance of the task and duties mandated, and in particular to respond to her requests for information on violence against women, its causes and its consequences.

58. The Commission is equally alert to gender-based violence against women and girl children occurring in developing countries and countries in economic transition. In resolution 1995/25, Governments were urged to take appropriate measures to address the problem of trafficking in women and girl children and to ensure that the victims are provided with the necessary assistance, support, legal advice, protection, treatment and rehabilitation. The problems of trafficking in women and girl children were recommended to be considered in the context of the implementation of all relevant international legal instruments. Grave concern was expressed with regard to women migrant workers who are subjected to physical, mental and sexual harassment and other abuses (resolution 1995/20). Treaty monitoring bodies and non-governmental organizations concerned were also requested to include the situation of women migrant workers in their deliberations and findings, and to supply relevant information to United Nations bodies. They were also to take appropriate measures to ensure that law enforcement officials assist in guaranteeing the full protection of the rights of women migrant workers.

B. Special concern for national action on women's human rights

59. In several of its resolutions, the Commission re-emphasized the obligation of all States to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction. The Commission has also shown deep concern for the violations of women's human rights in specific countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Equatorial Guinea, Myanmar, the Sudan and Afghanistan.

60. The Commission, in its resolution 1995/71, appealed to the Government of Equatorial Guinea to take measures necessary to improve the legal and social situation of women in that country. The Commission, having noted that many violations are specific to women, in particular women belonging to minorities, strongly urged the Government of Myanmar to guarantee full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to put an end to violations of, inter alia, the right to life and abuse of women in general (resolution 1995/72). Violation of human rights in the Sudan has also alarmed the Commission. In its resolution 1995/77, the Commission showed deep concern about the policies, practices and activities which are directed against and particularly violating the human rights of women and girls, including civil and judicial discrimination against women. It called upon the Government of the Sudan to work actively for the eradication of practices directed against and particularly violate the human rights of women and girls. In resolution 1995/74 on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, the Commission called upon all the Afghan parties to ensure respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women in accordance with international human rights instruments and called upon the Afghan authorities to take effective measures to ensure participation of women in the social, political and cultural life of the country.

61. In its resolution 1994/54, the Commission noted the recommendation adopted at the second International Workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Tunis, 13-17 December 1993), including those on the protection of, among others, women. The participants at the workshop had expressed the desire to take action in their respective countries to promote the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the alignment of their national legislation with that Convention. A report of national institutions on this issue is to be submitted at the next international workshop. Recognizing the impact of public education programmes on the equal status and human rights of women, the participants encouraged national institutions to persuade their respective Governments to adopt policies aimed at eliminating all discrimination against women and to take specific measures to meet the needs of women and recommended that national institutions cooperate with United Nations bodies working for the advancement of women.

C. Gender considerations in other resolutions adopted by the Commission

62. The Commission, in its resolution 1995/61, requested the Secretary-General to adopt the necessary measures to pay particular attention to the recruitment for the Centre for Human Rights of personnel from developing countries, giving priority, inter alia, to the recruitment of women.

63. The promotion and protection of women's rights has undoubtedly emerged as a thematic issue on the agenda of the Commission, which gives special attention to women in its consideration of a wide range of human rights questions. In its resolution 1995/87, the Commission, noting that some human rights violations are specific to, or primarily directed against women, and that the identification and reporting of these violations demand specific awareness and sensitivity, called on thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to include in their reports gender-disaggregated data and to address

the characteristics and practice of human rights violations specifically or primarily directed against women, or to which women are particularly vulnerable.

64. The Commission is fully aware of gender-based discrimination and gender-specific violence and exploitation of refugee women and girls as manifested by its adoption of resolution 1995/88. Regarding violations of women's human rights in armed conflicts, especially in the former Yugoslavia, the Commission strongly condemned violations of human rights, including rape and sexual abuse, against women. The systematic practice of rape as a weapon of war against women and children constitutes a war crime which cannot be justified under any circumstances (resolution 1995/89).

65. In resolution 1995/27 on contemporary forms of slavery, Governments were invited to consider the possibility of taking appropriate action for the protection of among others, migrant women against exploitation by prostitution and other slavery-like practices. Governments were requested to pursue a policy of information, prevention and rehabilitation of children and women victims of exploitation and to take the economic and social measures deemed necessary.

66. Noting that women are especially vulnerable to the risk of HIV infection, the Commission called upon all States to take the necessary steps, with particular attention to women. The need to protect women and girls from sexual abuse, inter alia, was recognized in resolution 1995/44. Human rights mechanisms were also requested to pay sustained attention to the risk of transmission of HIV to children because of continuing child prostitution. The Commission, in resolution 1995/40, deeply concerned about the existing gap between the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the effective implementation of that right, which contributes to the under-reporting of incidents of discrimination based on sex in many parts of the world, invited the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression to pay particular attention, inter alia, to incidents of discrimination based on sex.

D. Important decision and strategic recommendation

67. In continuation of its efforts to promote and protect the human rights of women, the Commission decided to give priority consideration at its fifty-second session to gender-based violations of human rights, including questions related to child prostitution and pornography, elimination of violence against women and the integration of the human rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations. Issues relating to women migrants and traffic in women and girls will also continue to be discussed at the session.

68. The Commission, in its resolution 1995/86, recommended that the Fourth World Conference on Women consider the question of means of integrating the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations system-wide activity.

VI. VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN MENTIONED IN THE REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND WORKING GROUPS

A. Civil and political rights

69. In compliance with resolutions 1993/46, 1994/45 and 1995/86 of the Commission on Human Rights, several special rapporteurs have devoted particular attention to the equal status and human rights of women. They have generally underlined the discrimination women still face, particularly in the areas of education, employment and politics. Others consider women in a separate section in order to emphasize the difficulties they are facing.

70. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women focused, in her preliminary report, on an analysis of the causes and consequences of violence against women and the relevant international legal standards and human rights instruments.

1. Right to life

71. Very often women receive death threats because they have challenged either the political system or traditional gender-based standards of behaviour in their own cultural or social settings. Governments through incompetence or inaction, sometimes tolerate the denial of women's right to life. Gender-biased legal systems also jeopardize women's right to life. The stoning of women, for example, can be applied as a penalty under Islamic law in Afghanistan.

72. The violation of women's right to life occurs in different parts of the world including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Peru, Zaire, Guatemala and Colombia. During 1994, for example, 118 such cases were reported and dealt with by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

2. Participation in politics and decision-making

73. Women's interests are less represented, or even unrepresented, in governmental and political forums. In some countries, socio-cultural resistance in this regard is very strong. This situation is a worldwide phenomenon, although differences exist among countries. Few cases have been reported of the violation of women's right to participate in politics and decision-making for cultural and political reasons, yet women's absence or lesser involvement in politics and decision-making has been briefly but clearly noted by special rapporteurs in their reports.

74. In regions and countries afflicted by war, women are among the most vulnerable groups. Women with their dependent children comprise of the majority of the war-affected population, yet their voice is hardly heard and their interests and concerns are rarely reflected in decisions. One Special Rapporteur reported that women's interests in Afghanistan are not actively represented at different councils and gatherings. Not a single woman was present in a gathering held at Herat. In one refugee camp in Burundi where there were only 25 men out of several thousand displaced people, the

Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons reported that only men appeared when representatives were asked to come forth to discuss problems. The Representative has recommended that displaced women should be better represented in camp administration and decision-making.

3. Right to full legal status and legal protection

75. Gender inequality before the law is a global phenomenon although changes in this respect have taken place in some countries. Women's legal rights remain limited, and their enjoyment of legal rights remains restricted in many parts of the world.

4. Freedom of opinion and expression

76. The promotion and protection of women's right to freedom of opinion and expression are often frustrated by political or cultural forces. For example, a feminist Bangladeshi woman writer's life was threatened because of a statement made in an interview published in an Indian newspaper. She felt compelled to seek asylum in Sweden.

5. Right to liberty and security

77. Women's right to liberty and security has been violated in various forms. They are likely to be victims because of the suspected political activities of their family members or their relationship with persons wanted by the police. Women are sometimes tortured to get them to reveal the whereabouts of a family member or friend. The report on the situation of human rights in Iraq shows that in several cases women have been arrested, tortured and subjected to extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions for their alleged activities. In many other cases women were raped or severely beaten in order to force them to "confess". Women's lives are often paralysed by the uncertain fate of their missing husbands. They are unable to mourn and start a new life, nor may they inherit the property of their missing spouses or fathers. Sometimes spouses and daughters face penalties as severe as forced deportation, torture and even execution.

78. In armed conflict, many combatants, mainly men, are killed. In the large number of women-headed households among internally displaced persons, women face serious security risks. Rape and sexual abuse often occur. The insecurity of their situation caused many displaced women to suffer from psychological trauma as well as sexual violence.

6. Freedom of movement

79. Women's right to freedom of movement is subject to restrictions in certain countries according to their social and cultural traditions.

7. Prohibition of sexual exploitation

80. Sexual exploitation and trafficking in women and girls are subjects of grave concern as such practices are increasing. In compliance with Commission resolution 1995/25 on traffic in women and girls, the international community has started to fight child prostitution, sex tourism, and trafficking in women.

81. Numerous cases of trafficking in women and girls have been reported in Asia, Central America and, recently, in Eastern Europe. The trafficking of Bangladeshi girls into Pakistan has led to a number of them being kept in jail as illegal immigrants. Cross-frontier trafficking of women occurred in Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. A number of girls from Myanmar sent back from Thailand after being lured into prostitution in Thailand were subsequently imprisoned by the Government of Myanmar. The sale and trafficking of young girls from hill-tribe groups in Nepal into India for sexual exploitation is practised without Government interference. The vulnerability to sexual abuse of girl children used as domestic servants was noted in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Benin, Ghana and Togo in particular. Girls used as house servants are especially deprived of their basic rights as they are seldom let out of the house. Girls discharged at puberty may end up in brothels.

82. Various forms of sexual exploitation occur in both developed and developing countries, such as the Netherlands, the United kingdom, the Nordic countries, Thailand, and Malaysia. There exists a "flesh trade" in Belgium, a form of exploitation of young women from developing and Eastern European countries. Forced prostitution in Turkey has been highlighted. Certain traditional practices exploit children sexually, such as the "deuki" system in Nepal where girls are offered to temples to become goddesses or be "married to god". They then fall prey to sexual abuse and, ultimately, prostitution.

8. Gender-based torture and degrading treatment

83. Rape occurs on a daily basis. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women stated that rape has often been described as the primary instrument of control in patriarchal societies. Women's vulnerability to rape is an important factor preventing their empowerment and their enjoying equality with men. Rape is also a widely used type of violence against women and girls in armed conflicts. The failure of Governments to condemn or punish rapists allows rape and other forms of sexual torture to become tools of military strategy.

84. Numerous specific cases of rape and sexual abuse have been reported by the special rapporteurs. For example, numerous female prisoners are allegedly raped in Zaire. Sexual abuse has been used by Bosnian Serbs to force families to flee. In July 1992, the Japanese Prime Minister delivered an apology for the "comfort women" to tens of thousands of women of colonized or occupied areas who were systematically mobilized by the Japanese imperial forces for use as sexual slaves for the armed forces during the Second World War. The question of compensation has still to be determined and the act has still to be recognized as a crime under international humanitarian law.

85. Many women are reluctant to speak about their experiences for a variety of reasons: severe traumatization, feelings of shame, lack of trust, fear of awakening bad memories as well as fear of reprisals against themselves and their families. Others felt exploited by the media and the many missions "studying" rape in the former Yugoslavia. Sometimes, women who have been raped and who can meet the evidence requirements for complaint risk being prosecuted for adultery. When the rapist is a member of the police or another governmental official, the police may refuse to register a complaint or pressure or bribe the victim into dropping the charges. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women stressed that effective prosecution of rape is considered one of the fundamental demands of the women's movement. States should have an international legal obligation to investigate, prosecute and punish rapists. Existing criminal law should be modified where necessary.

86. The most prevalent type of domestic violence is the violence of husband against wife, prevailing in all countries. Forms of domestic violence include female genital mutilation, early childhood marriage, widow burning and virginity tests. These practices have received international attention as aspects of the problem of women's human rights. Traditional practices should be seen as a definite form of violence against women which cannot be overlooked or justified on the grounds of tradition, culture or social conformity.

87. Many women also suffer from forced evictions. This type of violence is inadequately covered in legislation and no provisions for compensation exist internationally. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women is relevant with respect to violence perpetrated against women in the course of carrying out forced evictions.

88. Traditional legal systems are relatively unconcerned with wife abuse unless there is serious injury or a public nuisance. In many jurisdictions, changes have taken place. A major question facing reformers is whether the criminal justice system or a system of mediation and conciliation is most appropriate in dealing with domestic violence.

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Right to education

89. The violation of women's right to education was generally noted by several special rapporteurs. Girl children have fewer educational opportunities than boys because (i) they are seen by many communities as having lower value, (ii) they are kept out of school to help their mothers, and (iii) they are married very young. The rate of illiteracy is therefore higher among women, and opportunities for further training are limited.

90. Women in Equatorial Guinea, for example, have little access to formal education. Only 8.6 per cent of women have completed primary education, 4 per cent secondary education, 0.1 per cent vocational training and only 112 women have university degrees. In Iran, women have no access to certain kinds of education, such as engineering and agriculture, and unmarried women

doctors are not allowed to leave the country to further their studies before the age of 28. Girls in Zaire have far less opportunities to receive education and women's literacy rate remains low.

2. Right to work

91. Imposed unequal access to education constitutes an obstacle to women's equal participation in the economic activities and to their access to professional jobs. The deregulation of labour markets and the erosion of social welfare provisions also affect women's employment. Structural adjustment programmes and armed conflicts increase the workload on women. Prevailing gender discrimination and inequality contribute to women's high concentration in jobs with low pay and status.

92. In Equatorial Guinea, women are largely involved in subsistence economic activities, domestic service, street trades or other marginal occupations. As such, they do not receive social security and legal protection. In the United States of America, women are often employed in part-time or temporary jobs, lacking benefits such as pensions and health insurance. Nearly half of employed women are in lower-paying administrative support and services jobs. In every social category, women of colour are located at the bottom of the hierarchy. Working women in Zaire receive only two thirds of their normal pay while on maternity leave. In Cambodia, economic responsibilities, household and family tasks often keep women occupied up to 16 hours a day.

93. The situation is getting worse in certain parts of the world. Iranian women need their husband's permission to work, which may explain the annual 2 per cent decrease in women's employment. Women in Afghanistan are barred from all employment in some provinces, and in other provinces women are restricted to certain sectors such as education and health.

3. Freedom of Religion

94. Violence against women and gender discrimination based on certain cultures or beliefs were not consistently reported, a major obstacle to the enjoyment by women of their human rights. Certain traditional practices and sanctions which violate women's rights are justified by gender-biased legislation. Custom and traditions are also frequently invoked to justify the use of violence against women. All the world's religions are committed to equality and human rights, said the Special Rapporteur on violence against women. Certain practices, however, performed in the name of religion, not only denigrate individual religions but violate internationally accepted norms of human rights, including women's rights.

95. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women reported that in most societies there is an ongoing dialogue between groups concerned with women's rights and those who are close to religious traditions. It is the concern of the international community that this dialogue results in the elimination of practices which violate human rights and the spirit of equality contained in the world's religions. This question should be high on the list of priorities. Religious considerations should never be used to justify the use of violence against women.

4. Right to health care

96. Women in Cambodia, often overworked and malnourished, suffer more from poor health than men. In the former Yugoslavia, the shortage of medical supplies, heating fuel, etc., has particularly severe consequences for the most vulnerable groups in society, i.e. women, children, the elderly and refugees. In Iran, women are only allowed to see female doctors and dentists. Since there are few such women professionals, many girls and women are denied proper health care. Furthermore, as girls are regarded as having less value they are often denied access to health care. Nepal is one of the countries where the mortality rate of children under five is higher among girls than boys.

97. Patterns of race and sex discrimination persist in the American health care delivery system, from the exclusion of women of colour from important clinical drug trials to their under-representation in the preventive health care system.

98. Bioethics is a subject of grave concern. Scientific advances in the field of life science improved health and medical care, extended life expectancy and reduced infant mortality. This scientific progress benefits human beings but some of these may constitute threats to human integrity.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND WORKING GROUPS

99. Reports of various special rapporteurs and working groups reveal that the ratification and implementation of international instruments on human rights are not satisfactory. Their recommendations are largely general, not gender-specific. It was generally felt necessary and urgent to call for respect of the non-discrimination principle, for national legislation to conform to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, for accession to the international instruments, for the elimination of discriminatory practices and for the abrogation of laws discriminating against women.

100. Treaty bodies should pay more particular attention to the provisions of international instruments concerning the prohibition of slavery, the slave trade and the elimination of traffic in women and girls. States should take urgent measures to protect children from exposure to and involvement in child pornography. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is recommended to consider adopting a concise statement or assessment to empower women with regard to their right to property.

101. Governments bear the highest responsibility for the implementation of the international conventions on human rights and should therefore give the most serious consideration to the fundamental role played by women and the problems women face in society. Governments should eliminate discrimination against women and adopt positive measures to improve their effective participation in the educational, occupational, social and political fields. Regarding the situation of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Government should recognize full equality of rights between men and women in its civil legislation.

102. Organizations with a mandate to monitor compliance with applicable international human rights instruments should pay attention to the existence of laws and practices that discriminate between the sexes. The need to adapt internal legal systems to the international legal framework should be pointed out. It was recommended that thorough investigation of all cases of reported violations of women's rights should be carried out in the Sudan.

103. A seminar on the rights and position of women should be organized for government officials and representatives of social sectors within the context of the case in Equatorial Guinea, with contributions from national and international experts. Specifically, it was recommended that investing in the social and psychological rehabilitation of women affected by crisis should be seriously considered by international relief and development agencies.

104. Comprehensive detailed recommendations were made by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women. Her recommendations include ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, without reservations; the formulation of national plans of action to combat violence against women; training and sensitizing judicial and police officers on issues concerning women victims of violence; promoting research on violence against women; and inclusion of the proper reporting of violence against women to international human rights mechanisms.

105. A meeting of special rapporteurs, representatives, experts and chairpersons of working groups was held from 29-30 May 1995 at Geneva. The theme of integrating the human rights of women was included on the agenda of the meeting. The High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights addressed the meeting on this question. The opinions expressed as well as the recommendations made during this meeting will be submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifth-second session. The meeting recommended that two Special Rapporteurs (sale of children and torture) as well as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women participate at the Beijing Conference.

VIII. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995)

106. The Fourth World Conference on Women will take place in Beijing from 4 to 15 September, under the theme Action for Equality Development and Peace. Building on three previous global women's conferences and the United Nations Decade for Women, the Conference should result in the full implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000. It will provide an opportunity to assess how much has been achieved, to bring out women's strengths, skills and talents, and to move on from there to achieve the goals set for the Decade. In order to attain its objective, the Conference must put in place irreversibly a global policy of gender equality, development and peace, as identified by the three previous world conferences.

107. The draft platform for action to be adopted at the Conference consists of strategic areas and specific actions which aim to accelerate the process of gender equality worldwide. The platform will address the key issues identified as representing fundamental obstacles to women's advancement:

(i) the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women; (ii) unequal access to or inadequate educational and training opportunities of good quality at all levels; (iii) inequalities in health care and related services; (iv) all forms of violence against women; (v) effects of persecution and armed or other kinds of conflict on women; (vi) inequality in women's access to and participation in the definition of economic structures and policies and the productive process itself; (vii) inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels - insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women; (viii) promotion and protection of all human rights of women; (ix) women and the media; (x) women and the environment; (xi) rights of the girl child.

108. In its resolution 1995/86, the Commission on Human Rights recommended that the High Commissioner should ensure an appropriate role at the Conference for relevant human rights bodies and mechanisms in promoting the integration of efforts to promote women's rights within the mainstream activities of these mechanisms and within the United Nations system-wide activities so as to contribute to the success and achievement of the Conference. In this context, a number of experts from human rights bodies and mechanisms will participate in the Conference.

109. The draft platform reaffirms the fundamental principle set forth in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action that the human rights of women and of the girl child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. The platform, as an agenda of action, seeks to promote and protect human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all women throughout their life cycle. In accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the Beijing platform for action, the Centre for Human Rights will continue to promote and protect women's human rights by integrating women's rights into United Nations system-wide activities. To support and contribute to the approaching Conference, the Centre will organize two panel discussions during the Conference on violence against women and the integration of the human rights of women into the United Nations system-wide activities.

IX. CONCLUSIONS

110. The foregoing review has briefly examined follow-up activities in the implementing of recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action relating to the human rights of women. The review has revealed some progress in promoting and protecting the human rights of women, as well as progress in integrating women's rights into the existing mechanisms and procedures.

111. There exists a gulf between the expectations of the World Conference on Human Rights and the current status of the work in promoting and protecting the human rights of women. The information available from the special rapporteurs indicates that gender equality in the full enjoyment of human rights has not yet been achieved. Some reports addressed specific violations of women's rights, either by describing one individual case or in general statements. Gender-based violations of the human rights of women occurred in all areas of life.

112. An analysis of the present situation shows that public awareness of the importance of respecting the human rights of women remains low. Major factors slowing the promotion of public respect and legal protection for women's rights include the lack of time and resources available to the human rights bodies; commitment by Governments; understanding of the political importance of promoting respect for the human rights of women; gender-specific guidelines and a solid network for data collection on the violation of women's rights; accurate gender-disaggregated data in national reports; and women's participation and involvement in the United Nations bodies responsible for monitoring the implementation of international instruments on human rights. These lacunas explain the unsatisfactory situation in protecting the human rights of women and the ineffective implementation of the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Insufficient understanding of the violations of civil and political rights reduces the attention and importance attached to gender-based violations of human rights.

113. It is a long-term task to reach gender equality in the full enjoyment of human rights. A lot needs to be done, keeping in mind the spirit of the World Conference on Human Rights, as well as Commission resolutions on integrating the rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.

114. The Centre will strengthen gender-sensitive training within its programme of technical assistance in human rights issues. Gender-specific and -sensitive guidelines for the integration of the human rights of women into the United Nations human rights activities and programmes will be issued after the expert group meeting which is being organized by the Centre in cooperation with the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

115. The Centre for Human Rights is in the process of establishing a data-collection system. This is important for monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the World Conference on Human Rights and the Commission's resolutions on integrating women's human rights into the mainstream human rights activities. The collection of gender-specific data will also help human rights treaty bodies to identify the problems that women face. A cooperative network is to be developed by the Focal Point for the Human Rights of Women with United Nations agencies, Member States and NGOs. Data and information on violence against women and violations of women's rights will be periodically published in order to raise public awareness.

116. During the United Nations Decade on Human Rights Education, emphasis will be placed on the promotion and protection of women's rights. The Centre for Human Rights will organize educational programmes and campaigns around the theme that the violation of women's rights is a violation of human rights.

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E/CN.4/1995/32	Promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Report of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Abid Hussain, pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/45
E/CN.4/1995/34	Report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, Mr. Nigel S. Rodley, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/32
E/CN.4/1995/42	Preliminary report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/45
E/CN.4/1995/50	Internally displaced persons. Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1993/95 and 1994/68
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E/CN.4/1995/55	Report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran prepared by the Special Representative of the Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, pursuant to Commission resolution 1994/73 and Economic and Social Council decision 1994/263
E/CN.4/1995/56	Report on the situation of human rights in Iraq, submitted by Mr. Max van der Stoel, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, in accordance with Commission resolution 1994/74

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E/CN.4/1994/5	Report of the Secretary-General on rape and abuse of women in the territory of the former Yugoslavia
E/CN.4/1994/19 and Add.1	Completed final report on the right of everyone to own property alone as well as in association with others, submitted by Mr. Luis Valencia Rodríguez, independent expert

E/CN.4/1994/20	Forced evictions. Analytical report compiled by the Secretary-General pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/77
E/CN.4/1994/50	Final report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, submitted by Mr. Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, Special Representative, pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/62 and Economic and Social Council decision 1993/273
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A/49/40	Report of the Human Rights Committee
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E/C.12/1994/WP.10	Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. List of issues to be taken up by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in connection with the consideration of the initial report of Argentina concerning articles 6 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
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